

Rep. Slaughter believes the value of national service is tremendous. Now more than ever, we must encourage Americans to do their part to invest in their communities to meet unmet needs and to help put us back on the road to recovery.

In 2009, Rep. Slaughter joined the National Service Caucus, a bi-partisan group of legislators who are committed to supporting and encouraging national service programs, encouraging community service, and as a result making a real difference in the life of millions of Americans. Established in 2004, the National Service Caucus includes nearly 60 Members of Congress, in both the House and the Senate.

AmeriCorps is extremely active in Western New York and provides opportunities for citizens of all ages to help improve the nation through service to communities. Traditionally, federal funding for state chapters is distributed through formula funding and competitive grants.

Rep. Slaughter was a strong supporter of the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act, also known as the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, which President Obama signed into law on April 21, 2009. This bill provides the greatest expansion of national service since President John. F Kennedy first issued his call to serve over 50 years ago. The legislation will launch a new era of civic participation by promoting and funding service opportunities for Americans, while fueling economic growth in their communities. For every dollar spent towards service initiatives, there are four dollars of direct measurable economic returns in that community. AmeriCorps, one program strengthened by this bill, is an active presence in Western New York and positively impacts communities across the region.

Additionally, the economic recovery legislation signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009, included \$201 million in funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service to support an expansion of AmeriCorps State and National and AmeriCorps VISTA programs. Rep. Slaughter urged bill authors to include this funding in the final version of the economic recovery bill.

### BACKGROUND

In 1993, President Bill Clinton signed the National and Community Service Trust Act, which established the Corporation for National and Community Service and brought the full range of domestic community service programs under the umbrella of one central organization.

This legislation built on the first National Service Act signed by President George H.W. Bush in 1990. It also formally launched AmeriCorps, a network of national service programs that engage Americans in intensive service to meet the nation's critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

The Corporation for National and Community Service is usually receives funds through federal appropriations. The Recovery Act includes \$201 million in funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service to support an expansion of AmeriCorps State and National and AmeriCorps VISTA programs.

In 2008 alone, the Western New York AmeriCorps made a tremendous impact on communities across the region:

- 494 AmeriCorps members provided 288,462 hours of service.
- 26,176 volunteers were recruited and provided 215,903 hours of service.
- 282 sites/organizations received AmeriCorps services.
- 3,098,391 pounds of food at a value of \$9,295,173 was delivered to more than 20,000 families throughout WNY.
- 7 GED's were earned by at-risk youth corps members.
- 6,056 K-12 grade students were tutored by AmeriCorps members.
- 294 buildings/homes were reconstructed, renovated, or partially rebuilt by programs.
- 44, 395 families were served.

- 36,399 children were served.
- 160,840 individuals were served.